

Information on MMR and Varicella Vaccines

Getting the Varicella (chickenpox) and Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccines is much safer than getting any of the diseases. Most people who get either vaccine do not have any problems with them.

However, vaccines, like any medicine, are capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of the chickenpox or MMR vaccines causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

What are the risks from chickenpox vaccine?

Mild Problems

- Soreness or swelling where the shot was given (about 1 out of 5)
- Fever (1 person out of 10, or less)
- Mild rash, up to a month after vaccination (1 person out of 20, or less).

Moderate Problems

- Seizure (jerking or staring) caused by fever (less than 1 person out of 1,000).

Severe Problems

- Pneumonia (very rare)

What are the risks from MMR vaccine?

Mild Problems

- Fever (up to 1 person out of 6)
- Mild rash (about 1 person out of 20)
- Swelling of glands in the cheeks or neck (rare). If these problems occur, it is usually within 7-12 days after the shot. They occur less often after the second dose.

Moderate Problems

- Seizure (jerking or staring) caused by fever (about 1 out of 3,000 doses)

- Temporary pain and stiffness in the joints, mostly in teenage or adult women (up to 1 out of 4)
- Temporary low platelet count, which can cause a bleeding disorder (about 1 out of 30,000 doses)

Severe Problems (Very Rare)

- Serious allergic reaction (less than 1 out of a million doses)

This information was obtained from the CDC. Please visit www.CDC.org for more information.